

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION**

DISTRICT ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER

22201 23rd Drive SE
Bothell, WA 98021-4421
(425) 486-8788 Fax: (425) 483-4996
Industry Information: www.fda.gov/oc/industry

DATE(S) OF INSPECTION

01/03/2011 - 01/21/2011*

FBI NUMBER

3020428

NAME AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL TO WHOM REPORT ISSUED

TO: MR. BRIAN WILLIAM JONES, PRESIDENT/CEO

FIRM NAME

Sprouters Northwest Inc.

STREET ADDRESS

20703 80th Ave S

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE, COUNTRY

Kent, WA 98032-1252

TYPE ESTABLISHMENT INSPECTED

SPROUT GROWER

This document lists observations made by the FDA representative(s) during the inspection of your facility. They are inspectional observations, and do not represent a final Agency determination regarding your compliance. If you have an objection regarding an observation, or have implemented, or plan to implement, corrective action in response to an observation, you may discuss the objection or action with the FDA representative(s) during the inspection or submit this information to FDA at the address above. If you have any questions, please contact FDA at the phone number and address above.

DURING AN INSPECTION OF YOUR FIRM WE OBSERVED:

OBSERVATION 1

Failure to take necessary precautions to protect against contamination of food and food contact surfaces with microorganisms and foreign substances.

Specifically,

- 1) *Listeria monocytogenes* was found on the surface of a stainless steel table located in the northeast corner of the packing room.
- 2) The raw sprouts are stored in the brown, plastic crates without a liner of any type. The raw sprouts located at the bottom of the totes touched the pallets and/or other totes. These pallets and totes had previously been in direct contact with the floor. The brown, plastic totes are used for storage of both in-line raw and finished packaged sprout products.
- 3) These brown, plastic crates were observed to be inverted and used as supports for crates filled with sprouts in the packaging area. The inverted crates were placed in direct contact with the floor.

OBSERVATION 2

Failure to clean food-contact surfaces as frequently as necessary to protect against contamination of food.

Specifically,

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OF THIS PAGE**

EMPLOYEE(S) SIGNATURE

Margo C.L. Jones, Investigator
Thomas C. Mclean, Investigator
Katherine L. Ernest, Investigator
Jessica L. Kocian, Investigator

[Handwritten signatures of Margo C.L. Jones, Thomas C. Mclean, Katherine L. Ernest, and Jessica L. Kocian]

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1) Food debris and residue was found in the hard to clean areas around the sprout rinse tank conveyor belt, underneath the conveyor belt along the canvas section, on the flap attached onto the stainless steel hopper, and around the tensioner attached to each side of the conveyor belt. The sprouts that passed across these areas could inadvertently fall back into the rinse tank along with the rest of the sprouts flowing inside the rinse tank.

2) The equipment and fixtures in the seed disinfection room appeared to not be cleaned in between use. Spilled seeds were found on the prep table, on the scale frame, and on the rim of the whiteboard staged inside the seed disinfection room. The floor areas in this room also had accumulated seed spillage.

OBSERVATION 3

Failure to clean non-food-contact surfaces of equipment as frequently as necessary to protect against contamination.

Specifically,

A brown mass of old, thick food grime was found on a cross support plate located at the top inside of the rinse tank incline belt. *Listeria seeligeri* was detected on this surface.

OBSERVATION 4

Effective measures are not being taken to protect against the contamination of food on the premises by pests.

Specifically,

1) A total of (6) rodent excreta pellets (REPs) were collected from the warehouse. Large REPs were collected from the warehouse northeast corner, observed on the floor behind a steel rack, observed in an area behind the forklift battery charger, and small REPs were collected from along the west wall area. The processing area is accessible from the warehouse.

2) There is a gap at the bottom of the employee access door to the outside, located between the cooler and the employee breakroom which could allow pest access into the facility

3) There is an opening in the west exterior wall at the roof line and above the main sprouting growing area which could allow pest access into the facility.

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Margo C.L. Jones, Investigator *MCJ*
Thomas C. Mclean, Investigator *TCM*
Katherine L. Ernest, Investigator *KLE*
Jessica L. Kocian, Investigator *JK*

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OBSERVATION 5

Failure to properly store equipment, remove litter and waste, and cut weeds or grass that may constitute an attractant, breeding place, or harborage area for pests, within the immediate vicinity of the plant buildings or structures.

Specifically,

- 1) An accumulation of unused equipment parts, cardboard boxes, and unusable food items such as sunflower seeds, and a tub partially filled with (b) (4) were stacked in the upper south mezzanine area located inside the warehouse. This mezzanine is located directly above the seed disinfection room.
- 2) An accumulation of boxes of unused equipment parts, litter and debris were stacked in the upper north mezzanine area located inside the warehouse. This mezzanine is located directly above pallets containing plastic packaging material and labels.
- 3) There were weeds and accumulated debris at the north end of the property and behind the building along the west side. There was spilled trash scattered amongst the weeds in these respective areas.

OBSERVATION 6

Failure to maintain buildings, fixtures, or other physical facilities in a sanitary condition.

Specifically,

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Thomas C. Mclean, Investigator *TCM*
Katherine L. Ernest, Investigator *KLE*
Jessica L. Kocian, Investigator *JKK*

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1) There was water build-up along the walls and the floor. Moisture in walls has caused dry rot of door molding at the base of the wall in the southeast corner of the sprout growing area.

2) Seed spillage was noted on floor areas of the facility as follows:

a. Seeds were on the floor in the north end area of the warehouse near the strip curtain entrance. The seeds covered an approximately 8" x 12" area.

b. Seeds were observed on the floor in a narrow 4" space at the south end of the warehouse, between bags of stored seed and in the north side area of the tool room.

c. Seeds were seen intermittently on the floor in standing water at the south end of the warehouse in front of the door that led into the seed disinfection room.

OBSERVATION 7

Failure to hold raw materials in bulk or in suitable containers so as to protect against contamination.

Specifically,

4 to 5 bags partially filled with seed were observed stored open or not tightly wrapped inside the warehouse.

OBSERVATION 8

Failure to maintain buildings and physical facilities in repair sufficient to prevent food from becoming adulterated.

Specifically,

An abrupt stream of water followed by intermittent drips was observed falling from the ceiling in the northeast corner of the warehouse near the roll-up door. The water fell onto a sheet of cardboard that covered a pallet of blue, plastic, packaging material. This packaging material is used to package the mung bean sprouts via the automated packaging machine.

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01/03/2011(Mon), 01/04/2011(Tue), 01/05/2011(Wed), 01/06/2011(Thu), 01/07/2011(Fri), 01/10/2011(Mon), 01/14/2011(Fri),
01/21/2011(Fri)

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